United Nations

Press Release

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council refers to Committee of the Whole of Security Council, application of two Koreas, Micronesia and Marshall Islands for membership in the United Nations .

- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East protests to Israel against incident in West Bank at which Israeli soldiers allegedly threw live grenade into vehicle of the Agency's Refugee Affairs officer.

- Secretary-General expresses gratification that agreement has been reached between Indonesia and Portugal on pending issues relating to question of East Timor.

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The Security Council held a series of brief formal meetings at noon today and referred to its Committee of the Whole the applications for United Nations membership by Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea.

A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents that the Council's Committee on Admission would meet in closed session and make a recommendation on each of the four requests. A draft resolution would then be submitted to the Council.

The Security Council will meet again on Thursday, 8 August, to consider and take a decision on the report of the Committee on the Admission of New Members.

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The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has protested to the Israeli authorities about an incident last week in the West Bank refugee camp of Balata in which Israeli soldiers allegedly threw a live grenade into the vehicle of an UNRWA Refugee Affairs officer.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The Refugee Affairs officer, a Norwegian national, and his Palestinian assistant were affected by the fumes but did not require medical treatment and later resumed their duties.

The UNRWA's Director of Operations in the West Bank, Yves Besson, has sent the head of the Israeli Civil Administration, Brigadier-General Gadi Zohar, a note of protest about "this most serious incident in which members of the Israeli security forces violated the privileges and immunities of UNRWA". Mr. Benson asked for an investigation to be carried out into the incident.

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A United Nations spokeswoman told correspondents today that the Secretary-General was gratified that Indonesian and Portuguese authorities had now reached agreement on a number of pending issues related to a proposed visit by a Portuguese Parliamentary delegation to East Timor.

She said that, at a meeting on 27 June, representatives of Indonesia and Portugal to the United Nations held talks on the question of East Timor under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General. At that meeting, she said, the two sides agreed to transmit for the approval of their competent authorities agreement on the question.

Talks between the two sides are expected to resume on 12 August in New York.

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